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Second Biennial Report

OF

The Eugenics Board of North Carolina

July 1, 1936
To
June 30, 1938



R. EUGENE BROWN,
Secretary.

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EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

MRS. W. T. BOST, Commissioner of Public Welfare, *Chairman*

HON. HARRY McMULLAN, Attorney General

DR. CARL V. REYNOLDS, Secretary, State Board of Health

DR. J. W. ASHBY, Superintendent, State Hospital, Raleigh

DR. F. M. REGISTER, Superintendent, Caswell Training School

STAFF

R. EUGENE BROWN, *Secretary*

MARGARET RUNNION, *Office Secretary*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

To His Excellency, CLYDE R. HOEY,
Governor of North Carolina.

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of submitting herewith the report of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina for the biennial period ended June 30, 1938.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. W. T. BOST,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY TO The Eugenics Board Of North Carolina

During the biennial period ended June 30, 1938 a total of 356 petitions for sterilization were presented to the Board for consideration. The Board authorized operations in 350 of these cases. Opportunity was given for the parties concerned in each case to offer their objections or to give consent in writing for the operation. During this period persons appeared for hearings in only five cases. The Board declined to authorize the operation in two of the five cases. The following table shows the number and type of operations performed under orders of the Eugenics Board during the past two years:

TOTAL NUMBER OF STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—BY TYPE OF OPERATION AND
ORIGIN OF PETITION—JULY 1, 1936 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1938.

	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	Total
State Institution.....	47	2	152	--	201
County Institution.....	--	--	6	1	7
Non-Institution.....	6	3	77	2	88
Total.....	53	5	235	3	296

It is interesting to note that 276 of the 296 operations performed during the biennial period were consent cases—operations performed with the written consent of parents, next of kin, or legal guardian. An effort is made in every case to secure the consent of the next of kin or guardian of the patient by pointing out the advantages of sterilization. If the case for sterilization is properly presented to the families of the patients needing sterilization, it is believed that in most instances their consent and cooperation can be obtained. The purpose and advantages of sterilization have been well stated by the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena, California, as follows:

1. That sterilization has one effect only—it prevents parenthood.
2. It is not a punishment; it is a protection and therefore carries no stigma or humiliation.

3. It in no way unsexes the party sterilized.
4. Sterilization is approved by the families and friends of the sterilized.
5. It is approved by the medical staffs, probation officers, and social workers generally wherever they have come in contact with these patients.
6. It permits patients to return to their homes and friends who would otherwise be confined to institutions during the fertile period of life.
7. The records show that many moron girls paroled after sterilization have married and are happy and succeeding fairly well. They could never have managed and cared for children, to say nothing of the inheritance and fate of such children.
8. Homes are kept together by sterilization of husband and wife in many mild cases of mental disease, thus removing the dread by the normal spouse of the procreation of a defective child and permitting normal marital companionship.
9. The operation is simple, it removes no organ or tissue of the body. It has no effect on the patient except to prevent parenthood. Under conservative laws, sanely and diplomatically administered, as they have been in California, these discoveries developed by the medical profession now offer to these classes the greatest relief possible and the greatest protection to the defenseless child of the future.

While it is believed wise to proceed cautiously in order to develop a sound basis for sterilization in North Carolina, the magnitude of the problems of feeble-mindedness and mental disease in the State indicates that sterilization must be done on a much larger scale if the program is to be made effective.

The statistical tables at the end of the report show the progress of the work since its beginning in 1929.

A bulletin issued by the Board early in 1938, "Eugenical Sterilization in North Carolina", contains a brief discussion of the growth and development of sterilization, the sterilization statute, and the forms and procedures.

The sterilization law was amended by the General Assembly of 1937 in two respects, namely:

1. To provide that the County Superintendent of Public Welfare may act as petitioner in instituting sterilization proceedings in the case of any feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally diseased person who is on parole or probation from one of the State institu-

tions and any such person who is an inmate of a State institution when authorized to do so by the Superintendent of such institution.

2. To provide that any feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally diseased person may be admitted to the appropriate State Hospital for purposes of sterilization without the necessity of having such person committed as an inmate; provided that the Eugenics Board of North Carolina has previously considered the petition for sterilization and has authorized such an operation. The Superintendent of such State Hospital may in his discretion receive in such manner any such person upon the written request of a Superintendent of Public Welfare or the Superintendent of another State institution, where facilities for such operations are not available, and that the State Hospital officials shall have the same authority to restrain and control such person until he has recovered from the operation or until such time as the Superintendent deems wise for his release.

The members of the Eugenics Board have attended the monthly meetings regularly in person or through duly authorized representatives as provided by law.

Dr. J. C. Knox and Dr. R. T. Stimpson of the State Board of Health have each served at numerous meetings for the Secretary of the State Board of Health.

Messrs. Emmett Willis and Paul Mickey of the Attorney General's Office have each served at numerous meetings for the Attorney General.

Dr. John McCampbell, Superintendent of the State Hospital at Morganton, resigned in May, 1938 and Dr. F. M. Register, Superintendent of Caswell Training School, was elected by the Board to fill his unexpired term.

EXPENDITURES

	<i>Fiscal Year</i> <i>1936-1937</i>	<i>Fiscal Year</i> <i>1937-1938</i>
1. Salaries	\$1,380.00	\$1,590.00
2. Supplies and materials	23.00	8.00
3. Equipment	133.00	84.00
4. Postage	150.00	125.00
5. Printing forms, etc.	4.00	67.00
6. Printing bulletins and reports ..	46.00	49.00
7. Telephone and telegrams	6.00	5.00
8. Subscriptions and dues	9.00	6.00
Total	<u>\$1,751.00</u>	<u>\$1,934.00</u>

TABLE I

NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED TO THE EUGENICS BOARD

	Cases Pending at Beginning of Period	New Cases	Operations Ordered	Declined or Action Postponed	Cases Pending at End of Period
Cases Considered by Board of Reviewers Under 1929 Law. 1929-1932	--	65	57	8	--
Cases Considered by Eugenics Board Under 1933 Law.					
1933	--	13	13	--	--
1934	--	97	96	1	--
1935	--	191	187	4	--
1936	--	118	115	3	--
1937	--	167	163	2	2
1938 through June	2	117	116	3	--
Total		768	747	21	

TABLE II

EUGENIC STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN NORTH CAROLINA
1929 TO JUNE 30, 1938

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	1	--	1	3
1930.....	--	2	10	5	17
1931.....	--	--	10	1	11
1932.....	--	9	7	2	18
1933.....	1	--	3	--	4
1934.....	7	8	45	1	61
1935.....	17	7	152	2	178
1936.....	11	1	86	--	98
1937.....	18	3	105	2	128
1938 to June 30.....	32	1	76	1	110
Grand Totals.....	87	32	494	15	628
Total for State Institutions.....	70	26	281	6	383
Total for County Institutions.....	--	3	24	3	30
Total Non-Institutional Cases.....	17	3	189	6	215

TABLE III

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	--	--	--	--	--
1930.....	--	1	4	4	9
1931.....	--	--	3	--	3
1932.....	--	9	5	1	15
1933.....	1	--	1	--	2
1934.....	5	8	31	1	45
1935.....	9	6	67	--	82
1936.....	10	--	46	--	56
1937.....	15	1	66	--	82
1938 to June 30.....	30	1	58	--	89
Total.....	70	26	281	6	383

TABLE IV

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovarietomy	
1929.....	--	1	--	1	2
1930.....	--	1	2	--	3
1931.....	--	--	3	1	4
1932.....	--	--	--	--	--
1933.....	--	--	--	--	--
1934.....	--	--	1	--	1
1935.....	--	1	10	--	11
1936.....	--	--	5	--	5
1937.....	--	--	3	1	4
1938 to June 30.....	--	--	--	--	--
Total.....	--	3	24	3	30

TABLE V

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—NON-INSTITUTIONAL

YEAR	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovarietomy	
1929.....	1	--	--	--	1
1930.....	--	--	4	1	5
1931.....	--	--	4	--	4
1932.....	--	--	2	1	3
1933.....	--	--	2	--	2
1934.....	2	--	13	--	15
1935.....	8	--	75	2	85
1936.....	1	1	35	--	37
1937.....	3	2	36	1	42
1938 to June 30.....	2	--	18	1	21
Total.....	17	3	189	6	215

TABLE VI

AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF OPERATION OF PERSONS STERILIZED AND ASEXUALIZED IN NORTH CAROLINA—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1938

AGE	Vasectomy	Castration	Total Males	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	Total Females	Grand Total
10-19*.....	29	9	38	263	10	273	311
20-29.....	29	15	44	154	3	157	201
30-39.....	22	6	28	74	2	76	104
40-49.....	5	1	6	3	--	3	9
Over 49.....	2	--	2	--	--	--	2
Unknown.....	--	1	1	--	--	--	1
Total.....	87	32	119	494	15	509	628

*Of the 311 cases in this group twenty-two were under 14—One at age 9, one at age 10, three at age 11, five at age 12, and twelve at age 13.

TABLE VII

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—BY INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF OPERATION—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1938

INSTITUTION	MALE		FEMALE		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpingectomy	Ovariectomy	
Caswell Training School.....	2	1	38	--	41
Eastern Carolina Training School.....	1	--	--	--	1
Samarcan Manor.....	--	--	47	4	51
State Farm Colony for Women.....	--	--	9	--	9
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	51	20	27	--	98
State Hospital at Morganton.....	--	--	1	--	1
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	16	5	159	2	182
Total.....	70	26	251	6	353

TABLE VIII

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TYPE OF OPERATION AND RACE 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1938

TYPE OF OPERATION	White	Negro	Total
Vasectomy.....	33	54	87
Castration.....	10	22	32
Salpingectomy.....	443	51	494
Ovariectomy.....	14	1	15
Total.....	500	128	628

TABLE IX

DISTRIBUTION OF STERILIZATION CASES WITH REFERENCE TO MENTAL DEFECT,
ORIGIN OF PETITION AND MARITAL STATUS—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1938

MENTAL DEFECT AS SHOWN IN PETITION FOR STERILIZATION	ORIGIN OF PETITION			Total	MARITAL STATUS		
	Non- Inst.	County Inst.	State Inst.		Married	Single	Widowed or Divorced
Cerebral Syphilis with Mental Deficiency.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Congenital Cerebral Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	1	--	--
Dementia Praecox.....	1	--	49	50	22	26	2
Manic Depressive Psychosis.....	--	--	53	53	24	25	4
Psychosis with Cerebral Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	1	--	--
Psychosis with Constitutional Inferiority.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Epidemic Encephalitis.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Hereditary Syphilis.....	--	--	1	1	--	1	--
Psychosis with Mental Deficiency.....	1	--	31	32	5	25	2
Psychosis with Syphilis.....	--	--	5	5	3	1	1
Psychosis Undiagnosed.....	--	--	6	6	4	2	--
Psychopathic Personality.....	1	--	6	7	1	6	--
Epilepsy.....	3	--	75	78	22	55	1
Epilepsy with Mental Deficiency.....	4	2	21	27	3	23	1
Epilepsy with Psychosis.....	1	--	4	5	2	3	--
Feeble-mindedness.....	204	28	127	359	34	310	15
Total.....	215	30	383	628	122	480	26

TABLE X

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN UNITED STATES UNDER STATE LAWS
UP TO JANUARY 1, 1938*

STATE	YEAR FIRST ADOPTED	STERILIZATIONS PERFORMED		
		Male	Female	Total
Alabama.....	1919	129	95	224
Arizona.....	1929	10	10	20
California.....	1909	6,270	5,910	12,180
Connecticut.....	1909	23	377	400
Delaware.....	1923	273	241	514
Georgia.....	1937	0	0	0
Idaho.....	1925	4	10	14
Indiana.....	1907	383	277	660
Iowa.....	1911	70	83	153
Kansas.....	1913	1,151	764	1,915
Maine.....	1925	14	125	139
Michigan.....	1913	420	1,395	1,815
Minnesota.....	1925	270	1,189	1,459
Mississippi.....	1928	105	225	330
Montana.....	1923	35	74	109
Nebraska.....	1915	132	201	333
New Hampshire.....	1917	51	302	353
New York**.....	1912	1	41	42
North Carolina.....	1919	86	432	518
North Dakota.....	1913	90	263	353
Oklahoma.....	1931	49	236	285
Oregon.....	1917	435	783	1,218
South Carolina.....	1935	0	1	1
South Dakota.....	1917	139	244	383
Utah.....	1925	63	82	145
Vermont.....	1931	50	111	161
Virginia.....	1924	1,197	1,719	2,916
Washington.....	1909	48	245	293
West Virginia.....	1929	1	30	31
Wisconsin.....	1913	129	776	905
Totals.....		11,628	16,241	27,869

1. Voluntary sterilizations in state penitentiaries of California not included above.----- 302

2. The above figures were furnished by state authorities.

3. In many states lacking sterilization laws, the state institutions sterilize patients with consent. No account is here taken of such operations, nor of those that are primarily therapeutic, not eugenic, in purpose.

**The New York law was declared unconstitutional in 1918.

*Information obtained from The Human Betterment Foundation, Pasadena, California.

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Eugenical sterilization in
North Carolina

